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Viewing cable 08BOGOTA1311, FARC REJECTS FRENCH HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO AID

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08BOGOTA1311**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08BOGOTA1311	2008-04-09 21:12	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0002
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #1311 1002112
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 092112Z APR 08 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2301
INFO RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 1441
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 8132
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0210
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6081
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0191
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 1479
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1275
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6740
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 001311

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/09/2018

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SUBJECT: FARC REJECTS FRENCH HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO AID
HOSTAGES

Classified By: Political Counselor John Creamer
Reason 1.4 (b and d)

FARC REJECTS FRENCH MISSION

¶1. (U) The FARC issued a communique, dated April 4, rejecting a French mission to provide urgent medical care to FARC-held hostages, including Ingrid Betancourt. The FARC communique accused President Uribe and the French Government of "bad faith," saying the group would not be blackmailed. The FARC reiterated its demand for a demilitarized zone in the Valle De Cauca Department municipalities of Florida and Pradera, and praised the "humanitarian efforts" of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Senator Piedad Cordoba.

¶2. (C) Meanwhile, former hostage and ex-Senator Luis Eladio Perez continued to push his idea that Chavez' and Cordoba's renewed involvement is key to reaching an humanitarian accord with the FARC. Perez also outlined his proposal which would involve the GOC's release of FARC prisoners to France while the FARC freed Betancourt and the other civilian hostages. In a second phase, the GOC and FARC would exchange military personnel. It is unclear if the U.S. hostages would be released in the first or second package under Perez' proposal. Perez said France would also commit to seek the FARC's removal from the EU terrorist list, once it freed all hostages and renounced further kidnapping.

FRENCH--UNDER PRESSURE--CONSIDERING NEXT STEPS

¶3. (C) French DCM in Bogota Alain Fort confirmed media reports that French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner plans to visit Colombia and Venezuela, and possibly other countries in the region, in the near future to continue to press for a humanitarian exchange. Fort said French President Nicolas Sarkozy faces enormous domestic political pressure to obtain Betancourt's freedom. The French remain in contact with Perez on his proposal, but expect little since the former hostage has no access to the FARC. Fort added that the GOF is analyzing the FARC communique to determine whether or not references to Chavez and Cordoba indicated a future role in exchange talks. Fort thought the FARC's communique language on Chavez and Cordoba leaned towards the past tense.

BROWNFIELD

=====CABLE ENDS=====